

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 /105 W

----- 122179

P 211533Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8555

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0824

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV YO

SUBJECT: NEW YUGOSLAV CONSTITUTION PROCLAIMED

REF: BELGRADE 747

1. YUGOSLAVIA'S 3RD POST-WAR CONSTITUTION WAS FORMALLY ADOPTED FEB. 21 AT JOINT SESSION OF FEDERAL ASSEMBLY ATTENDED BY VIRTUALLY ENTIRE TOP YUGOSLAV PARTY/GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP -- EXCEPT TITO. ONLY SPEAKER MIKA SPILJAK, PRESIDENT OF FA CHAMBER OF NATIONALITIES BEGAN BY ANNOUNCING TITO HAD SENT REGRETS THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEND. FROM THEN ON OCCASION SEEMED TO FALL FLAT, DESPITE HOOPLA OF LIVE TV COVERAGE, GUN SALUTES AND CROWDS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AND OTHERS OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY BUILDING.

2. TITO HAS MAD NO PUBLIC APPEARANCES SINCE ECHEVERRIA FAREWELL FEB. 15 AND EVIDENTLY IS NOT NOW IN BELGRADE. LIKELY TO ASSUME HE IS RESTING ON BRIONI OR IN SLOVENIA. FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE DATED FEB. 18 INVITING CHARGE TO ATTEND ASSEMBLY SESSION, HOWEVER, SAID IT WAS "PRESUMED" TITO WOULD BE PRESENT.

3. COMMENT: TITO'S ABSENCE AT CONSTITUTION PROCLAMATION
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CEREMONY IS NOTEWORTHY SINCE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED

TO ATTEND, AND BEARS OUT THESIS THAT DOCTOR'S HAVE ORDERED HIM TO REST. SUCH RESTRICTIONS ON HIS ACTIVITY ARE NOT UNIQUE, HOWEVER, AS RECENTLY AS LAST SPRING TITO SET PRECEDENT BY FAILING TO APPEAR AT FOURTH PARTY CONFERENCE AFTER LONG, TIRING SCHEDULE OF VISITS, SPEECHES, AND APPOINTMENTS. BUSY SCHEDULE HE HAS FOLLOWED UP TO NOW THIS YEAR HAS MADE IT NECESSARY TO CUT DOWN HIS SCHEDULE DRASTICALLY.
JOHNSON

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NNN

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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